

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 05882 091044Z
ACTION NODS-00

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-----047812 091048Z /15
Z 091020Z AUG 77 ZFF-1
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 7668

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 5882

EXDIS

HANDLE AS NODIS

FOLLOWING MESSAGE TEL AVIV 5875 SENT ACTION USDEL FOR
THE SECRETARY AUG 9 BEING REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO:

QUOTE:

EXDIS

HANDLE AS NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM LEWIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)
SUBJECT: MAJOR MILITARY INCURSION BY ISRAEL THREATENS IN SOUTH LEBANO
N

1. DAYAN ASKED ME TO SEE HIM THIS MORNING AT HIS HOME
IN TEL AVIV. THE MESSAGE WAS SIMPLE AND BLUNT. THE
ISRAELIS WILL NO LONGER TOLERATE WHAT THEY VIEW AS
INCREASING PALESTINIAN PRESSURE ON THE CHRISTIAN FORCES,
AND ARE ON THE POINT OF LAUNCHING A MAJOR INCURSION INTO
SOUTH LEBANON TO "CLEAN OUT THINGS" AT LEAST FOR THE
TIME BEING. BEGIN PLANS TO DISCUSS THIS IN DETAIL

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 TEL AV 05882 091044Z

WITH YOU, BUT DAYAN HAD PERSUADED HIM THAT HE SHOULD
GIVE ME AN ADVANCE INDICATION OF THEIR INTENTIONS.

2. DAYAN INSISTED THAT THEY HAD NO PLAN TO OCCUPY
TERRITORY PERMANENTLY, BUT HE GAVE ME THE IMPRESSION
THAT THIS ENTERPRISE WOULD RESULT IN MORE THAN JUST A
FEW HOURS STAY ACROSS THE BORDER. AT MY INSISTENCE,

HE ASSURED ME THAT NOTHING WOULD HAPPEN BEFORE YOUR MEETING HERE WITH BEGIN, BUT EVERY INDICATION WAS THAT TIME FUSE IS SHORT. I ARGUED VIGOROUSLY AGAINST ANY SUCH ENTERPRISE, MUSTERING ALL AVAILABLE ARGUMENTS DRAWN FROM BEGIN'S RECENT REPORTING ABOUT THE PROSPECT OF LEBANESE FORCES MOVING SOUTH IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE, BUT I OBVIOUSLY DID NOT PERSUADE HIM THAT FURTHER DELAY FOR UN OR LEBANESE FORCES TO BE INSERTED WOULD PRODUCE THE DESIRED RESULT.

3. YOU SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR A DETAILED DISCUSSION ON THIS TOPIC, AND I SUGGEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT PROVIDE IMMEDIATELY FOR YOU ALL AVAILABLE INTELLIGENCE SUPPORT ON WHAT IS ACTUALLY HAPPENING, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW AGREEMENT. DAYAN AND I DISCUSSED WHETHER THE LEBANESE SITUATION SHOULD BE TAKEN UP AT THE FIRST MEETING THIS AFTERNOON OR TOMORROW'S MEETING. IT MIGHT BE BEST TO GO FIRST INTO THE MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS ISSUE, TAKING UP LEBANON AFTER THIS GENERAL FRAMEWORK IS ESTABLISHED, IN ORDER TO UNDERSCORE THE IMPACT ANY MILITARY ACTION WOULD HAVE ON THE PEACE PROCESS.

4. I HAVE BEEN TRYING TO DIVINE SINCE LEAVING DAYAN'S HOUSE WHAT THE ISRAELIS ARE UP TO. ONE UNHAPPY
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 TEL AV 05882 091044Z

HYPOTHESIS WOULD BE THAT THEY ARE NOW INDEED WORRIED THAT THE PLO IS ON THE POINT OF ACCEPTING RESOLUTION 242, WHICH COULD PRODUCE A MAJOR SPLIT BETWEEN US AND THE ISRAELIS. ONE WAY TO MAKE SURE THAT DOES NOT HAPPEN MIGHT BE TO DO SOMETHING MILITARILY AGAINST THE PLO WHICH WOULD PRECLUDE ANY CHANGE IN THEIR POSITION TOWARD ISRAEL. THERE ARE OTHER POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS; ALL I CAN SAY AT THIS POINT IS I AM AFRAID THE ISRAELIES ARE QUITE SERIOUS.
LEWIS UNQUOTE
LEWIS

SECRET

NNN

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